

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
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FOR RELEASE
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HEARING SCHEDULED AND SPECIAL MASTERS APPOINTED IN
MATTER CONCERNING JUDGE JOSE A. VELASQUEZ

On April 27, 2006, the Commission on Judicial Performance announced it had instituted formal proceedings to inquire into matters concerning Judge Jose A. Velasquez, a judge of the Monterey County Superior Court. The hearing has been scheduled to begin on Monday, August 21, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Sixth District Court of Appeal at 333 Santa Clara Street in San Jose, California. The hearing will be open to the public.

Under the rules that govern Commission proceedings, the hearing will be conducted by special masters appointed by the Supreme Court: Justice Laurence D. Rubin, Presiding, Court of Appeal, Second District; Judge Kevin M. McCarthy, Superior Court of San Francisco County; and Judge Eleanor Provost, Superior Court of Tuolumne County.

At the hearing, the parties will have an opportunity to introduce evidence and examine and cross-examine witnesses. Commission Trial Counsel Jack Coyle has been designated as examiner. Judge Velasquez is represented by attorneys James A. Murphy and Harlan B. Watkins of Murphy, Pearson, Bradley & Feeney in San Francisco, California.

Following completion of the hearing, the special masters will provide the Commission with a report containing their findings with respect to the charges. The parties will have an opportunity to respond to the report through briefing and argument before the Commission. If the Commission determines that the charges are proved by clear and convincing evidence, it is empowered to impose discipline as provided in the California Constitution. Charges that the Commission determines are not proved will be dismissed.

The Commission is composed of three judges, two lawyers, and six public members. The Chairperson is Marshall B. Grossman, Esq. of Los Angeles, California.

For further information about the Commission on Judicial Performance, see the Commission's Web page at www.cjp.ca.gov.